environment free from political turmoil and violence that a Summit would yield the desired outcome. We have stressed our keenness to hold the 13th SAARC Summit in Dhaka at an early date. Pakistan, as Chair of SAARC, is required to initiate consultations with the host Government (Bangladesh) and other member countries for identifying fresh dates for the 13th SAARC Summit, which are mutually convenient to all SAARC members.

Atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh

†3768. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a press communique issued by the 'Hindu-Buddhist-Christain Unity, Bangladesh' regarding atrocities being committed against the minorties particularly against Hindus living in Bangladesh.

(b) whether Government are aware of the recent attacks made on the houses and the places of worship of the minorities living there, and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the reasons for which Government have not registered their protest to the Government of Bangladesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are frequent reports, including in the Bangladeshi media, of attacks on properties and places of worship of the minority Hindu community. Attacks on the minority Buddhist, Ahmadiya and Shia communities have also been reported.

(c) The Government remains concerned at the reports of atrocities against miniorities in Bangladesh and have taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh.

Pak President's New Delhi visit

3769. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what issues were discussed during the recent Pak President's visit to New Delhi;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether terrorism and PoK issues were discussed in the context of Satellite pictures of terrorist camps on the other side of the border; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) During the visit of the President of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf to India from 16 to 18 April 2005, the President Musharraf and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh reviewed positively the progress in Pakistan-India relations, and took, *inter-alia* the following decisions:

To pursue further measures to enhance interaction and cooperation across the LoC including agreed meeting points for divided families, trade, pilgrimages and cultural interaction;

To increase the frequency of the Sringar-Muzaffarabed bus service and to allow trucks to use this route to promote trade;

To operationalise additional routes including that between Poonch and Rawalakot;

Early start of the bus service between Amristar and Lahore and to religious places such as Nankana Sahib;

To re-establish the Khokhrapar-Munnabao route by 1st January 2006; To open the Consulates General of the two countries in Mumbai and Karachi respectively before the end of the current year;

To endorse the decisions taken on the schedule of meetings later in the year, the agreements to be worked upon through these meetings and the measures to be taken to alleviate the situation of prisoners;

To convene discussions on the issues of Sir Creek and Siachen through the existing institutional mechanisms immediately, with a view to expeditiously finding mutually acceptable solutioins to both issues;

The Ministers of Petroleum and Natural Gas to meet in May 2005 to explore cooperation in the sector including on the issues of pipelines;

The Joint Business Council to meet soon.

To reactivated the Joint Commission as early as possible.

To enhance economic and commercial cooperation to bring greater prosperity to the two nations and the region.

(b) and (c) In the Joint Statement made during the visit of President Musharraf on April 18, 2005, both countries reaffirmed the commitments made in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004. Pakistan had, in the Joint Statement of January 6, 2004 issued in Islamabad, *inter alia*, stated, that it would not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. Both countries also pledged not to let terrorism impede the peace process.

Postponement of PM's America visit

†3770. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNALAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postponement of the U.S. visit of Prime Minister in July, 2005 is under consideration; and

(b) if so, the reasons for postponement of the said tour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During her visit to India on March 16, 2005, the U.S. Secretary of State Dr.Condoleezza Rice conveyed an invitation from President Bush to the Prime Minister to visit Washigton D.C. This was reiterated by President Bush during the visit of Exteral Affairs Minister to Washington D.C. on April 13-14, 2005. The question of postponement does not arise as no decision has been taken as yet on the proposed visit of Prime Minister to Washington D.C.

Convention on nuclear safety

3771. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNALAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to ratify the convention on nuclear safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons prompted Government to ratify the convention on nuclear safety;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to sign on a peace treaty with Pakistan regarding use of nuclear weapons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.